



# The Vermont Land Trust

## Recovery and Resilience

February 2021

# Outline

Vision

Impact

Focus areas

- COVID response
- Recreation and health
- Farmland futures
- Other innovations

Discussion



## Vision:

Vermont's communities and working landscape will be vital, resilient, and connected.

## Context:

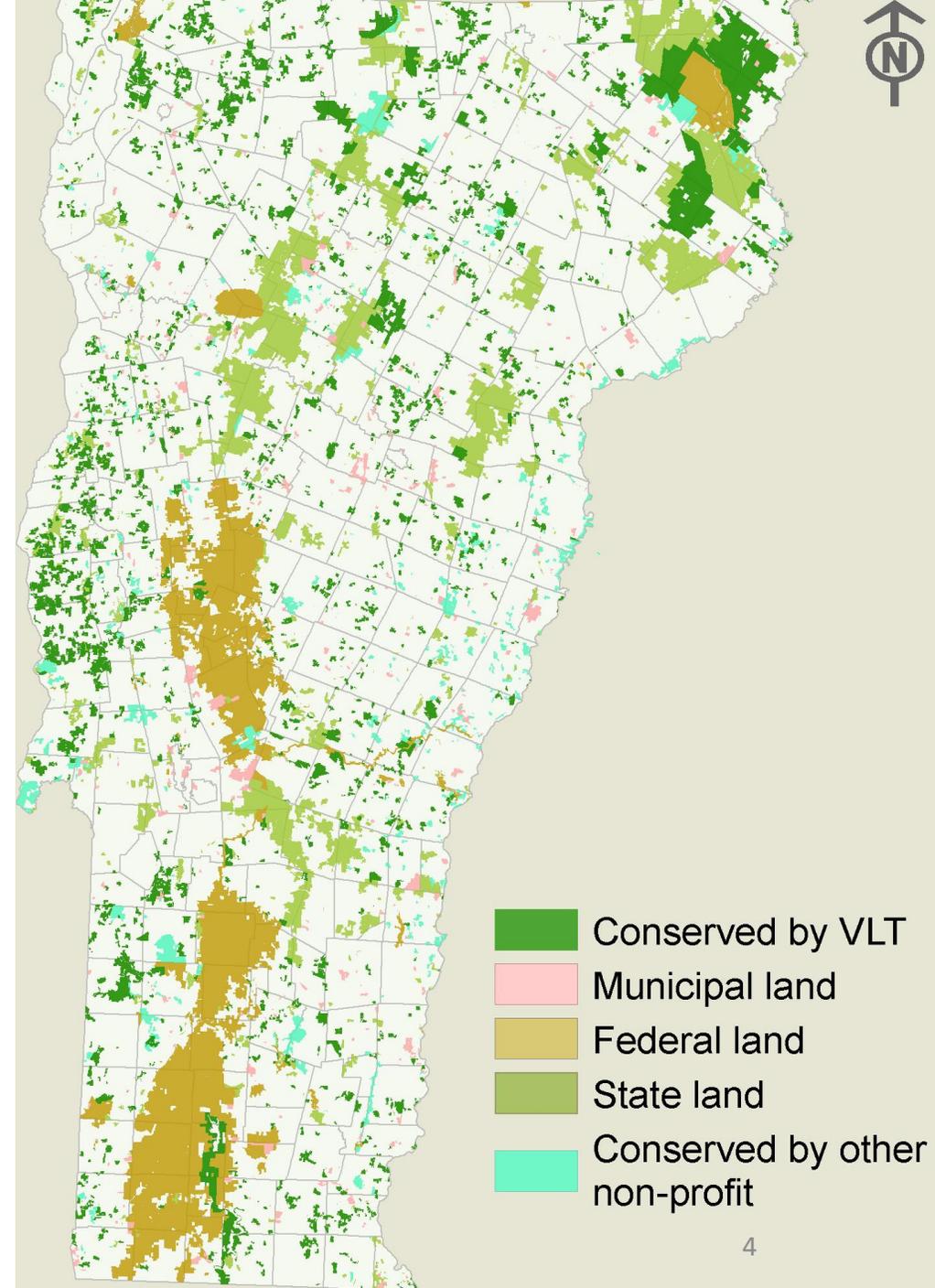
- Racial equity and justice
- Climate change
- Economic vitality
- Health and wellbeing



# Quick Facts:

- Founded in 1977
- Conserved 11% of private land in VT (500,000+ acres)
- 2,200+ landowners
- 43 employees across VT
- 2020 operating budget: \$3M

Sources: State (VHCB) and Federal funds, Individual contributions, Foundations, Investments



# 2020 Highlights

- 20 farms conserved
- 180 families served through community gardens
- 4,600 acres of forestland conserved
- 2,800 trees planted
- 238 acres of wetlands protected

*and more*



“I spent a considerable amount of time here on the farm when I was younger. The idea of living and working here was just a dream.”

- Lilly Butler, 15 yrs old,  
Butler Farm West Pawlet

# COVID Response

- Growing food at VLT-owned properties
- Partnerships with Shiftmeals, Abenaki, and VYCC
- Small grants to VLT-conserved farmers



“When things are insecure, it’s not a bad idea to produce more food. I wasn’t sure if we’d be selling or giving it away this year, but I figured there would be a need for it.”

- Angus Baldwin  
West Farm, Jeffersonville

# Recreation and health

- Access to conserved land for recreation
- Online events for education and connection
- 202 community projects: Kingdom Trails, Krusch Nature Preserve



# Farmland Futures

- Launch of a \$15M fund to help next generation of farmers (using State Revolving Fund)
- Completed over 120 farm transfers



“I have seven people on payroll now. The goal was everything in one place. It’s amazing to do it all from here as the business grows.”

- Krista Scruggs,  
ZAFA Wines, Isle La Motte

# Other Innovations

- Soil health pilot, Conservation Services Innovation Grant
- Forest carbon offsets, Cold Hollow to Canada
- Indigenous lands
- Restoration of land



# Thank you

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